VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 3, 6, 7, and 10-13 as follows:

--3. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the infrared radiation comprises substantial components, which bring about the drying, in the near infrared, in particular at wavelengths below 1.0 µm.--

--6. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1 [one of the claims 1-5], characterized in that the drying is completed within 5 seconds, in particular within 3 seconds, after the application of the impregnation or coating agent.--

--7. (Amended) Method according to Claim 1 [one of the claims 1-6], characterized in that the object (1; 5) being processed is conveyed continually in a longitudinal direction, in the course of which it first passes through an application zone in which the coating and/or impregnation agent (22) is applied, and that the object (1; 5) or more specifically its coated or impregnated longitudinal sections are conveyed into a drying zone in which the coated or impregnated surface is irradiated with the infrared radiation.--

--10. (Amended) [Employment of] Method according to Claim 1, including providing an infrared lamp (11) to dry an object (1; 5) coated or impregnated with a coating agent and/or impregnation agent (22), in particular to dry lacquered

wood[, in cases such that the nature of the coating agent and/or impregnation agent (22) is as described in Claim 1 and/or in Claim 2].--

--11. (Amended) [Employment] Method according to Claim 10, wherein the infrared lamp (11) is a halogen lamp.--

--12. (Amended) [Employment] Method according to Claim 10 [or 11], wherein the infrared lamp (11) is constructed as a tubular radiator with an incandescent filament (12) that extends linearly within a tube (13) that is transparent to radiation, in particular within a quartz-glass tube.--

--13. (Amended) [Employment] Method according to Claim 12, wherein the infrared lamp (11) is combined with a reflector element (10) that extends along the tube (13) and in cross section has a groove-like structure, enclosing back side of the tube in such a way that the infrared radiation is intensified by addition of reflected radiation to the radiation emitted towards the front side.--